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Message Text

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 EA-07 NEA-05 ISO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 IO-03

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R 051104Z DEC 73
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5595
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AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USUN NEW YORK 919
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5348

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, SA
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL TILLMAN DISCUSSES OIL

REF: STATE 230348 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: SAG OFFICIALS SAY SPECIFIC PROGRESS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL A PRECONDITION TO LIFTING OR EASING OIL BOYCOTT.

1. IN DISCUSSIONS DECEMBER 3 WITH KING'S SPECIAL COUNSELOR, PRINCE NAWWAF, ROYAL COUNSELOR DR. RASHAD PHARAON, DEPMIN INFO PRINCE FAHD AL-SUDAIRY, AND PETROMIN
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GOVERNOR DR. ABDUL HADI TAHER, SENATE FON RELATIONS

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COMMITTEE STAFFER DR. SETH TILLMAN EMPHASIZED THAT
CONTINUATION OF OIL BOYCOTT COULD DEPRESS U.S.
ECONOMY, INCITE U.S. PUBLIC AGAINST ARABS, AND
HAMPER ADMINISTRATION'S ABILITY TO SELL CONGRESS ON AN
EVEN-HANDED POLICY TOWARD MIDDLE EAST. TILLMAN SUGGESTED
THAT ARAB CAUSE MIGHT BEST BE SERVED IF OIL BOYCOTT
LIFTED OR MODERATED WHEN GENEVA PEACE TALKS BEGIN.

2. PRINCE NAWWAF EXPLAINED AT LENGTH THAT SAG HAD ONLY
WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE RESORTED TO USE OF OIL WEAPON
AGAINST US, AND THEN ONLY WHEN MAGINTUDE OF OUR AID TO
ISRAELIS LEFT IT NO CHOICE. SAG LOOKED FORWARD TO
RESUMING PRODUCTION AT PREVIOUS LEVELS AND HIGHER AS SOON
AS POLITICAL SITUATION PERMITTED. IN MEANTIME, HOWEVER,
SAG HAD TO THINK OF PUBLIC OPINION IN ARAB WORLD, AND
EVEN AT HOME. PRINCE BELIEVED THAT INCONVENIENCE AND
DISLOCATIONS EXPERIENCED BY EUROPEANS WAS A FACTOR USG
COULD ADDUCE IN SEEKING TO RALLY PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR
EARLY AND JUST SETTLEMENT.

3. TILLMAN TOLD PRINCE REACTION MIGHT WELL GO THE OTHER
WAY; ASKED WHAT SIGNS OF ACTION OR PROGRESS DID SAG
NEED TO EASE UP ON OIL WEAPON OR LIFT IT ALTOGETHER?
PRINCE REPLIED IF IDF WITHDREW TO EAST BANK OF CANAL,
THAT WOULD BE GOOD STEP; PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI
WOULD BE EVEN BETTER, ALTHOUGH SAG DID NOT EXPECT
IMMEDIATE AND TOTAL WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI.

4. DR. PHARAON SUBSEQUENTLY EXPANDED ON THIS POINT
TO SAY THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF PHASED TIMETABLE FOR
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI WOULD BE REGARDED AS
A POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. WITHDRAWAL NEED NOT BE
ACCOMPLISHED OVERNIGHT, BUT IF ISRAELIS WERE SINCERE IT
COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THREE MONTHS OR LESS.
PHARAON INDICATED THAT SAUDI SKEPTICISM ABOUT PROSPECTS
FOR PEACE TALKS WAXING BECAUSE MORE THAN THREE WEEKS HAVE
PASSED SINCE SECRETARY KISSINGER SUPPOSEDLY OBTAINED
ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW TO OCTOBER 22 LINES AND
IDF STILL IN PLACE.

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5. DR. PHARAON WAS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO ARGUMENT THAT
ARABS SHOULD BE FOREBEARING AND REASONABLE TO WIN BATTLE
FOR US PUBLIC OPINION AND TO FREE OUR HANDS AT CONFERENCE TABLE;
RIGHT OF ARAB CAUSE TO HIM WAS AS SELF-EVIDENT QUOTE AS SUN IN
SKY UNQUOTE. ALL US NEEDED TO DO, HE SAID, TO END BOYCOTT
AND NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ARABS WAS COMPEL ISRAEL TO IMPLEMENT
UN RESOLUTIONS THAT ENJOYED ALMOST UNIVERSAL SUPPORT.
AKINS

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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